

FORM 1-5-60  
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# OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of State, WASHINGTON

Date: January 13, 1961

FROM: Ambassador, LONDON

DMS

DMV No. 195

SUBJECT: VISAS: Anglo-Soviet Trans-Global Expedition.

REF:

There are attached self-explanatory letters exchanged with the Anglo-Soviet Trans-Global Expedition concerning a proposed expedition of combined British and Russian nationals who intend to depart from England across France, Germany, Poland, U.S.S.R., Siberia, Bering Strait, Alaska, the Yukon and Canada, then back to England. It will be noted that the Embassy has in its reply suggested that members of the expedition file applications for their visas at American Embassies or Consulates at their respective places of residence.

Additional data is being sought on the organization in the United Kingdom.

Enclosures:  
As stated.

cc: Ambassador, Moscow

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CANADA OVERLAND EXPEDITION

RE NAMED: ANGLO-SOVIET TRANS-GLOBAL EXPEDITION

S. KINGSLEY ROAD  
CLEVEDON  
SOMERSET

January 4th 1961

The American Consul  
American Embassy  
Visa Section  
429, Oxford Street,  
London, W.1.

Your Ref: - 211-NR:ldw dated May 28 '59

Dear Sir,

Further to our letter of the 25th May 1959. For the past two years we have been trying to obtain permission from the Soviet Government to cross the U.S.S.R. & Siberia but have been unable to do so. However on the advise of a professor of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, Moscow, we approached the Soviet Government with the idea of forming a combined British-Russian Expedition, starting from England and crossing France, Germany, Poland, U.S.S.R., Siberia Bering Strait, Alaska. Yukon Canada and back to England again, travelling by Field Cars (Four Vehicles, Two British, two Russian and a crew of 12, 6 British and 6 Russian). This idea has found favour with the Soviet Government and the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences.

However at an interview we had with the Soviet Consul in London it was pointed out that although we may be granted visas to transit Alaska it was thought that some difficulty might be encountered in obtaining permission for the Soviet Section of the Expedition to transit Alaska. And therefore it was suggested that we approach you and formally request your assistance in this matter.

The composition of the Soviet Section of the Expedition is not known at the moment but it will most likely consist of 6 Students of the Geographical Department of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. However when we can assure the Soviet Section that permission to transit Alaska will be forthcoming when needed then they will commence to form their Section and assemble their equipment and will then grant our Section permission to transit the U.S.S.R. and Siberia and will also arrange a provisional starting time and place.

The various Commercial Companies that are going to supply us with Finance and Equipment cannot grant us their support until we have written conformation from the U.S.S.R that we will be granted permission to cross the U.S.S.R. and Siberia and the U.S.S.R. cannot give us this conformation until they are assured that the Soviet Section of the Expedition will be granted permission to cross Alaska.

Hoping, Sir, that you will be able to assist in this matter

Your's faithfully,  
for Anglo-Soviet Trans-Global Expedition,

Manager